

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 OMB-01 AID-20 NIC-01 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7922

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 6831

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CI, MX

SUBJ: MEXICAN REACTION TO EVENTS IN CHILE

1. REPORTS OF MILITARY TAKEOVER AND OF DEATH PRESIDENT ALLENDE AROUSED INTENSE INTEREST AND SHOCK IN PUBLIC AND OFFICIAL QUARTERS IN MEXICO. MEDIA COVERAGE, WHICH WAS MASSIVE AND GENERALLY PRO-ALLENDE, WILL BE SUBJECT OF SEPARATE REPORT BY USIS. NOTEWORTHY THAT GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED TV CHANNEL 13 ASSEMBLED HIGHLY SLANTED PRESENTATION ON SUBJECT LAST NIGHT.

2. IN STATEMENT ISSUED EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 11, PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA DECLARED: QUOTE THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO PROFOUNDLY LAMENTS THE EVENTS WHICH TOOK PLACE TODAY IN THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE AGAINST THE CONSTITUTIONAL REGIME OF PRESIDENT SALVADOR ALLENDE. FAITHFUL TO ITS POLICY OF NON-INTERVENTION AND OF RESPECT FOR FREE SELF-DETERMINATION OF PEOPLE (THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT) EXPRESSES ITS SOLIDARITY WITH THE CHILEAN PEOPLE AND ITS CONFIDENCE THAT THEY WILL QUICKLY FIND AGAIN THEIR PATH THROUGH DEMOCRATIC AND PACIFIC MEANS. (THE GOM) EXPRESSES ALSO ITS HOPE THAT THE REPORT OF THE DEATH OF DR. ALLENDE WILL NOT BE CONFIRMED AND THAT HIS LIFE AND PERSONAL
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SECURITY AND THOSE OF HIS FAMILY AND COLLABORATORS WILL

BE RESPECTED. THE AMBASSADOR OF MEXICO IN CHILE HAS RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS TO GRANT IMMEDIATELY TO THE ALLENDE FAMILY, IF THEY REQUEST IT, DIPLOMATIC ASYLUM, WHICH WILL BE GRANTED WITH THE AFFECTIONATE HOSPITALITY OF THE MEXICAN PEOPLE; AND ASYLUM TO ANY PERSON OF CHILEAN NATIONALITY UPON APPROPRIATE REQUEST, PLACING THEM UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE MEXICAN FLAG. UNQUOTE.

3. MRS. ALLENDE RECENTLY VISITED MEXICO AND DONATED A NOMINAL AMOUNT OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT IN CONNECTION WITH RECENT NATURAL DISASTERS. SHE WAS WARMLY RECEIVED DURING HER VISIT HERE. SHE REPORTEDLY DEPARTED SEPTEMBER 8 FOR CHILE.

4. MEXICAN CONGRESSMEN IN REPORTED COMMENTS ON CHILE CLOSELY FOLLOWED THE ATTITUDE REFLECTED IN THE PRESIDENT'S DECLARATION.

5. A RELATIVELY SMALL GROUP (ESTIMATED AT 200-300) OF DEMONSTRATORS ASSEMBLED AT THE CHILEAN EMBASSY ON THE AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 11 AS AN INDICATION OF SUPPORT FOR THE ALLENDE REGIME. A HANDOUT SHEET DISTRIBUTED AT THE PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION AND SIGNED BY THE "NATIONAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OF THE WORKERS SOCIALIST PARTY" CALLED UPON WORKERS, INTELLECTUALS, PEASANTS, STUDENTS AND SOCIALISTS TO ATTEND A SOLIDARITY MEETING IN DOWNTOWN MEXICO CITY AT 6:00 SEPTEMBER 12. THE HANDOUT BLAMES THE EVENTS IN CHILE UPON NATIVE "REACTIONARIES AND FASCISTS" AND U.S. IMPERIALISM.

6. COMMENT: THE ECHEVERRIA ADMINISTRATION HAS CONSISTENTLY STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE ALLENDE REGIME. AS RECENTLY AS SEPTEMBER 1 IN HIS STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA REFERRED (IN TONES OF REGRET) TO THE "ISOLATIONIST STRATEGY" MOUNTED AGAINST ALLENDE. WHETHER HIS DECLARATION YESTERDAY IS REALLY COMPATIBLE WITH MEXICO'S OFT-EXPRESSED NON-INTERVENTION POLICY, PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA EVIDENTLY FEELS THAT MEXICAN PUBLIC OPINION WILL SUPPORT HIM IN HIS SYMPATHETIC ATTITUDE TOWARD THE ALLENDE REGIME.
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7. ACTION REQUESTED: IF DEPARTMENT DEEMS ADVISABLE, PLEASE PASS SANTIAGO.
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